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HR
SUBJECT: ANNUAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT FOR
CROATIA

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Sensitive but unclassified; please handle accordingly.

11. (SBU) Post is pleased to submit the Annual Anti-Trafficking in Persons Report for 2008. Croatia has previously been ranked as a Tier 1 country. Post believes that Croatia has maintained its efforts to meet Tier 1 status, and post strongly recommends retaining the Tier 1 ranking for 2008. The Government of Croatia has demonstrated strong political will to combat Trafficking in Persons and has continued to strengthen its legal framework to both protect victims and criminalize traffickers. In 2008 Croatia has made progress in areas where it has historically been weak, namely in the area of conviction and sentencing. The government continued to increase the number of sentences issued against traffickers, and in 2008 the government sentenced one offender to eight years imprisonment. This is by far the harshest penalty issued in Croatia against a trafficker and is close to the maximum sentence allowed under Croatian law. The government has also continued its aggressive anti-trafficking training for government officials and proactive efforts to raise public awareness.

1A. Sources of available information on trafficking in persons include the Government Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Justice. Non-governmental sources include the Croatian Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration, and a network of 11 NGOs that works towards the prevention and elimination of trafficking of women (PETRA network). The media also serves as a source of information on TIP. All of these sources provide reliable information.

1B. Croatia is considered a country of origin, transit and destination for internationally trafficked, men, women and children. Trafficking does occur within the country's borders. All of the territory belonging to Croatia is under the government's control. Historically victims are trafficked from Southeastern Europe, through Croatia, and on to member countries of the European Union for sexual or labor exploitation. However, in 2008 all identified trafficking victims were exploited within Croatia. This prima facie evidence would indicate that Croatia has increasingly become a country of destination.

The government identified seven trafficking victims in 2008. Four victims were Croatian citizens, two were from Bosnia Herzegovina, and one was from Serbia. Of the seven victims identified, three were male and four were female. The three male victims were exploited for the purpose of labor. Two victims were forced to work as

shepherds and the other worked as a farm hand. Three female victims were sexually exploited, while one female victim was exploited both for labor purposes and sexual purposes. Though this final victim was found being exploited in Croatia, she reported also being exploited previously in Austria. The increase in the number of male victims, the increase in the number of victims being exploited for the purposes of labor, and the fact that Croatia was a country of destination for all the victims are all changes from last year's TIP report.

Additionally, both the government and the Croatian Red Cross believe Croatia is no longer an attractive transit route to the EU for Romanians, Hungarians, Ukrainians, Moldovans and other Eastern Europeans due to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania into the EU in 2007. They believe routes through Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary and on to the western part of the EU are now more attractive and easier for traffickers. All victims identified this year were from South Eastern Europe.

1C. Victims are subject to violence, intimidation, withholding of documents, and threats by traffickers. The majority of victims, both foreign and national, reported poor living and working conditions and suffered physical and/or sexual abuse, as well as psychological abuse, in the process of trafficking.

1D. Young women between the ages of twenty and thirty continued to be most at risk for being trafficked, though there was a noticeable increase of male victims trafficked for the purpose of labor in 12008. The International Organization for Migration also believes that the high number of illegal migrant workers entering Croatia each year indicates an increased vulnerability to trafficking for this population.

1E. Anecdotal information indicates that international organized crime groups, local groups, and travel or marriage agencies were responsible for trafficking. Victims usually travel with legal

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documents, although some are falsified. Unofficial sources indicate that trafficked victims are mostly recruited through fraud and promises of well-paying jobs abroad. The methods of recruitment are numerous and diverse: abduction, extortion, false promises, fictitious marriages, bogus adoption agencies, seduction, the issuance of false certificates required for student visas, business offers, etc.

12. (SBU) SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-TIP EFFORTS:

1A. The government acknowledges that there is a trafficking problem in the country.

1B. The lead agency for monitoring anti-trafficking efforts is the Government Office of Human Rights; the head of which also serves as GOC Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. In addition, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Justice are also actively involved in anti-trafficking efforts.

1C. There are few limitations on the government's ability to address the problem of trafficking in persons. Funding is more than adequate and the GOC budget dedicated for TIP activities in 2008 was 9,022,582 HRK (1.6 million USD). A backlog in the judicial system can hamper speedy court decisions in all cases, including TIP cases. However, in 2008 there was a significant reduction in the number of cases waiting to be heard. Additionally, the lack of a unified database of both victims and perpetrators amongst all governmental players (Government Office for Human Rights, Ministry of Interior, State Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Health and Social Services, local police, etc.) makes information sharing more difficult than need be.

1D. The GOC systematically monitors anti-trafficking efforts through its Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, the Head of the Office of Human Rights, who is responsible for coordinating all GOC activities and developing an annual operation plan. The GOC's National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking consists of members from relevant

ministries, as well as representatives from the State Prosecutor's Office and NGOs. The committee has a smaller working group, which includes representatives of NGOs, and meets regularly to discuss specific TIP cases and programs. TIP-related information is made available publicly through the Office for Human Rights website, as well as via domestic and regional seminars. The GOC also cooperates closely with the Southeastern European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and Interpol on investigations and prosecutions.

13. (SBU) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS

1A. Croatia has a provision in the Penal Code which specifically prohibits trafficking in persons, both for sexual and non sexual purposes. The Criminal Provision 175 in the Croatian penal Code titled 'Human Trafficking and Slavery' enacted in 2004 prescribes penalties for labor exploitation such as forced labor, bonded labor and involuntary servitude. In June of 2006 a paragraph was introduced in article 175 that allows prosecution of persons who knowingly use services of the trafficked victims, with sentences ranging from 3 months to 3 years. On December 15, 2008 the code was again amended to include mandatory sentencing of at least five years if a state official is involved in trafficking. Apart from this TIP specific legislation, the Penal Code includes provisions providing penalties for related criminal acts such as international prostitution, illegal transfer of persons across the state border and pandering. In addition to criminal procedures against traffickers, victims can also initiate civil litigation against and request compensation from traffickers. The laws cover both internal and transnational forms of trafficking.

1B. The prescribed and imposed penalties for trafficking people for sexual exploitation range between one and ten years imprisonment. In cases where a TIP crime is committed against a minor the minimum sentence is five years. In cases where a state official is involved in the trafficking case the minimum sentence is five years. If the crime is committed within a criminal group or against a large number of people or causes the death of one or more persons, penalties provide for a minimum of five years to long term imprisonment.

1C. The prescribed and imposed penalties for trafficking for labor exploitation such as bonded labor and involuntary servitude range between one and ten years in prison. The law provides for criminal punishment for labor recruiters who engage in recruitment of laborers using knowingly fraudulent or deceptive offers that result in workers being trafficked. There are also laws punishing employers

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or labor agents who confiscate workers' passports or travel documents, switch contracts without the worker's consent as a means to keep the worker in a state of service, or withhold payment of salaries. Trafficking in Persons for the purposes of labor is typically prosecuted under Criminal Provision 175 of the Croatian Penal Code titled 'Human Trafficking and Slavery', thus resulting in more stringent sentences. Apart from the Criminal Provision 175, labor violations can also be prosecuted under the relevant Labor Law. As legal "written contracts" between an employee and an employer are obligatory in Croatia, under applicable Labor Law the lack of a contract can also technically be considered a misdemeanor and fined up to 30,000 Kuna (6,122 USD).

1D. The minimum sentence for rape is one year, while penalties for rape and forcible sexual assault are generally as stringent as the penalties for trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

1E. Law Enforcement Statistics

In 2008 the police filed criminal charges against 15 people for trafficking in persons. Thirteen of those charged were later indicted. Five persons were charged with labor trafficking, while the rest were reported and charged for sexual exploitation. Final verdicts were given against 12 persons in 2008, though the crimes committed took place between the years of 2005 and 2008. In one case the perpetrator was extradited to Serbia for prosecution. In another case the perpetrator was a minor and in accordance with Croatian law he cannot do prison time. He was sent to a home for juvenile delinquents. In a third case the perpetrator was a citizen of Serbia

and was sentenced in absentia to six years of prison. In the other nine cases the sentences ranged from one year to eight years. The government did not report any suspended sentences in 2008. All crimes were investigated and prosecuted under Criminal Provision 175 in the Croatian penal code titled 'Human Trafficking and Slavery.'

1F. Throughout 2008 the government implemented educational workshops for its officials, including social workers, diplomatic and consular staff, judges, prosecutors, police and students. During the year the Ministry of Interior trained 2,372 police officers. Of the total number trained, 1,476 officers were trained through various programs of the Police Academy. In cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) 63 participants - officers dealing with a wider range of criminal activities such as minor offenders, organized crime, sex crime and border police - were trained. The officers took part in seminars on strategic analysis of TIP cases and the link between organized crime and TIP. Another 42 students were trained on TIP as part of specialist undergraduate studies. Apart from the Police Academy programs the Ministry of Interior's Criminal Police and the Border Administration facilitated TIP educational training for 897 police officers. In cooperation with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the British government, the government completed education for 27 border police officers. Police officers also participated with IOM in production of educational films which are used at the Police Academy and for the undergraduate study of Criminology. Further, another 26 police officers involved in suppression of organized crime and assigned to follow TIP, continued to train other police officers on how to recognize and deal with the victims of trafficking. To address concerns about prostitution and potential TIP during the tourist season along the Adriatic coast, the Government held four seminars in Rijeka and Split on the suppression of TIP and assisting TIP victims. 130 police officers, prosecutors, and civil servants from the Ministry of Health and Social Care, and NGOs were trained.

In June 2008 the government completed a one-year, 1 million Euro program co-funded with the EU which trained 314 people including social workers, health care workers, police officials and government lawyers in combating trafficking in persons.

In October, the Croatian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a one day conference entitled "The Role of Diplomatic Personnel in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings." The results of a joint capacity building project between IOM and the ministry were presented at the conference. The project, a key element of which was improving potential victim identification procedures, trained 17 diplomatic and consular staff who further trained 60 colleagues on issues related to trafficking in persons. Additionally, the project produced information brochures in 5 different languages designed to help assist foreigners, visa seekers, Croatian travelers and potential TIP victims. The project also produced a handbook and curriculum for Croatia's Diplomatic Academy for further education on TIP issues. As a result of the conference, consular officers at the

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Croatian Embassy in Rome have produced a report which examines trends in Croatian visa applications from Italy and identifies key indicators that can be used to identify possible TIP victims.

In October the government also held a three day seminar in Virovitica-Podravina county entitled "Strengthening Local capacity in Combating Trafficking in Persons." The county is located in northern Croatia along the border with Hungary. The seminar was held in cooperation with a local women's NGO. There were 50 participants including social and health care workers, police officials, county court judges, and representatives from the county government. The government also financed a 30,000 HRK (5,192 USD) project from the same NGO to promote governmental capacity building and cooperation with NGOs.

Also in October the government organized a seminar with the cooperation of an NGO from the Dalmatian coastal town of Sibenik and trained 32 family center workers. There are ten family centers in Croatia established at a county level by the Ministry of Family that work with local families and youth in the area of therapy and

preventions. Workers at these centers include social workers, lawyers, and psychiatrists. The focus of the seminar was "How to Recognize a Victim of Trafficking in Persons."

In November the government held a training seminar on recognizing trafficking victims for 30 soldiers who were departing Croatia for tours of duty in Afghanistan. Additional training for another 30 soldiers also serving in Afghanistan was held in December.

Also in November the government held a two day seminar in cooperation with a women's NGO from Vukovar on combating trafficking in persons and promoting cooperation between government institutions and non-governmental organizations in eastern Croatia. Vukovar is located along the border with Serbia. The government also financed a 50,000 HRK (8,659 USD) project from the same NGO to promote governmental capacity building and cooperation with NGOs.

11G. The Croatian government continued intensive regional cooperation efforts in 2008 to investigate organizations believed to be involved in trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation. In 2008 the Ministry of Interior reported working with the respective ministries of Macedonia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Serbia, Kosovo, Austria, Romania, Israel, Ukraine, Cyprus and Switzerland on TIP related activities.

As part of the on-going 3,506,000 HRK (701,200 USD) EU Cards Twinning Project focusing on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Croatian police, in conjunction with the Government Office of Human Rights, Ministries of Interior, Health, Social Care and state prosecutors, participants from the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and the National TIP Coordinator, continued to cooperate with both short- and long-term TIP advisors from Germany and Austria. The fifteen-month-long project ended in June of 2008 and was specifically designed to strengthen the capacity of national institutions across Croatia in combating TIP and to further assist the GOC in its EU wide efforts to protect the victims of trafficking in persons, paying special attention to children. In particular, the in-depth regional project had seven main components:

- A complete review of existing legislation, structures, capacities and procedures to combat TIP.
- Recommendations from both Germany and Austria.
- Pilot testing of recommendations.
- Further development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in TIP.

- Development and implementation of a TIP training program.
- A comprehensive and complete media campaign focusing on clients to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts.
- Establishment of quality assurance system.

The main fields of action of these seven areas were designed specifically to further influence Croatian criminal law, police measures, investigation methods, and assistance measures such as identification, protection of victims and victim support.

In cooperation with SECI (Southeastern European Cooperative Initiative), INTERPOL and EUROPOL, the Ministry of Interior reported investigating five TIP cases, 214 cases of illegal people smuggling across the state border, four cases of international prostitution, and one case of pandering. Police also had an active role in the Mirage working group from the SECI regional center.

The police also cooperated with INTERPOL on two long term projects: 'Red Roots', a project which promotes the sharing of arrest warrants

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to create a database of TIP perpetrators and the 'Women who Disappeared' project, a database of all women who went missing and are automatically checked as potential trafficking victims.

As part of its presidency of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI Regional Forum) Croatia organized a round table program in April on repatriation and reintegration of victims. The purpose of the MARRI regional forum is to pursue regional cooperation in combating TIP among the member states of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

In September the GOC presented at an OSCE organized seminar for national anti-trafficking rapporteurs from participant states in the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons. The Croatian government was invited to present their system of reporting as an example of comprehensive coverage and bestpractice for the countries of the region. The goal of the seminar was to support and encourage participating states in the implementation of commitments to fight TIP, while providing a venue for exchanging information, enhancing dialogue, and networking among national authorities working in the TIP area.

As reported in the 2007 TIP report Croatia ratified the Council of Europe's "Convention against Human Trafficking" in February, 2008, along with 14 other countries. Within that framework an independent monitoring body was established to ensure all signatory bodies implemented the obligations contained in the convention. The Croatian government nominated two individuals to be a member of the monitoring body GRETA (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.) In December a Croatian professor from the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb was chosen as one of the experts.

As part of an ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) project to support the development of transnational referral mechanisms for trafficked persons in South-Eastern Europe, the government participated in a study trip to Spain to look at the experiences of a destination country in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons. As part of the same project Croatia met in November with other South-East Europe anti-TIP coordinators to discuss activities in 2008 to suppress trafficking in persons for the region.

Through its membership in the United Nation's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) the Government of Croatia has actively worked on projects to enhance operational capacity to investigate and disrupt human trafficking in the Balkans. In November, the Ministry of Interior organized a conference in Croatia on the theme 'Exchange and Strengthening Actions in Investigation and Prevention of TIP in the Region' with participation of representatives form Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, SEPCA (Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association) and a number of NGOs.

Croatia also continued to assist Swiss police in a 2007 international investigation codenamed "Operation Blonde" which resulted in the identification of eight alleged perpetrators and seven trafficking victims. In December 2008, the Ministry of Interior arranged transportation of the victims to Zurich to testify in the court case against the perpetrators.

During 2008 Croatia extradited one TIP suspect to Serbia for trial.

Croatia also participates in the Anti-Trafficking Unit at the OSCE in Vienna

¶H. The Croatian constitution prohibits the extradition of its own nationals except in limited circumstances such as war crimes proceedings. The government extradited one Serbian citizen to Serbia for trafficking prosecution during 2008.

¶I. There is no evidence of government's involvement in trafficking on either local or institutional levels and there is no evidence of government's tolerance of trafficking. An amendment to the penal code in 2008 mandates that any state official involved in trafficking must receive a sentence of at least five years.

¶J. Not applicable. There is no evidence of government officials being involved in any form of TIP crimes.

¶K. Prostitution is not legal in Croatia. Activities of prostitutes are treated as misdemeanors, while pandering is a criminal act. The activities of the brothel owner/operator, pimps and enforcers are

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criminalized and the laws are generally enforced. Activities of clients are not criminalized. Knowingly using the services of a TIP

Victim is considered a crime in Croatia and is punishable with sentences ranging from 3 months to 3 years

¶L. There have been no occurrences of international peacekeepers from Croatia engaged in, or facilitating trafficking or exploiting victims of such trafficking. In November the government held a training seminar on recognizing trafficking victims for 30 soldiers who were departing Croatia for tours of duty in Afghanistan. Additional training for another 30 soldiers also serving in Afghanistan was held in December.

¶M. The government has not identified child sex tourism as a problem, nor has it reported any prosecutions or extraditions of foreign pedophiles in 2008. Post does not believe child sex tourism is a problem in Croatia to date. In countries where lists of sex offenders are kept, Croatian law enforcement officials work through INTERPOL to receive notification when these offenders travel to Croatia and special attention is given to their cases. Croatian Penal Code contains provisions that punish pedophilia. Croatia's child sexual abuse laws have extraterritorial coverage. No nationals were prosecuted or convicted under the extraterritorial provisions.

¶4. (SBU) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

¶A. The rights of foreign TIP victims are defined under the Law on Foreigners which came into effect in Croatia on January 1, 2008. The law stipulates a mandatory reflection period of 30 days for potential adult victims of TIP, and a 90 day reflection period for minor victims of TIP. The law specifies different forms of assistance which should be offered to foreign victims, including safe accommodation, financial support, education and training, and assistance with employment. Under the Law on Foreigners victims are to be provided with temporary and renewable residency permits, initially for a period ranging from six months to one year, which can be extended based on a subsequent needs assessment.

The rights of domestic TIP victims are defined under the Law on Social Welfare. Domestic TIP victims have the right to safe accommodation, legal assistance, financial support, education and training, and assistance with employment.

A witness protection law provides for government protection when a witness' life, health, freedom, or property is threatened. An office for protection of witnesses and victims of crime was opened at the Zagreb municipal court in May. The office, which is the joint project of the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is intended to provide legal and psychological assistance to witnesses (including trafficking victims) at four county courts throughout the country. Red Cross Croatia reported that TIP witnesses received adequate police protection.

Croatia is a signatory to the Council of Europe "Convention against Human Trafficking", which further introduces a period of at least 30 days for recovery and reflection by the victims with the possibility of obtaining a temporary residence permit which is not subject to agreement by the victim to cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

Based on recommendations from the Government Office for Human Rights, on December 15th, the parliament amended the Criminal Procedure Act to give additional rights to victims of the gravest crimes, which includes victims of trafficking. Victims of such crimes have the right to an adviser during criminal procedures free of charge and the right to financial compensation for material and non material damages from the state budget. The amendments also restrict the number of interviews a victim must go through in order to avoid secondary victimization. The amendments expanded the possibility of videotaping interviews with victims also to avoid excess interviews and revictimization. Underage victims are granted a custodian, protection of their personal information, and the right to a non-public trial. The police, prosecution and courts have to treat minors with special consideration appropriate for their age and circumstances.

¶B. The government has two specifically designated TIP shelters, one for adults and one for children as well as two alternative shelters

that assist women - victims of domestic violence and former prostitutes. There are also three regional reception centers throughout the country that assist victims before they can be

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transported to a shelter. Three TIP victims in 2008 used shelter facilities in addition to two victims from 2007. Other victims returned to their families. Though there were no minor TIP victims found this year the shelter for children provided housing for the children of one of the TIP victims. Foreign victims have the same access to care as domestic trafficking victims. As there is only one adult shelter, there are no special facilities for male and female victims. TIP shelters are funded by the Ministry of Health and Social Care and run by the Croatian Red Cross and NGOs. The Government spent 400,000 HRK (70,395 USD) for these shelters in 2008.

C. Trafficking victims are provided with legal, medical and psychological services. Victims are provided with safe accommodation, financial support, education and training, and assistance with employment. Victims who chose to cooperate with investigations and who act as witnesses are provided with legal advice and witness protection. In 2008 the government provided 520,000 HRK (91,517 USD) to NGOs to be used for the support of trafficking victims. This funding came from the federal budget.

D. The rights of foreign TIP victims are defined under the Law on Foreigners which came into effect in Croatia on January 1, 2008. The law stipulates a mandatory reflection period of 30 days for potential adult victims of TIP, and a 90 day reflection period for minor victims of TIP. The law specifies different forms of assistance which should be offered to foreign victims, including safe accommodation, financial support, education and training, and assistance with employment. The law stipulates that victims should not be deported and are to be provided with temporary and renewable residency permits, initially for a period ranging from six months to one year, which can be extended based on a subsequent needs assessment.

E. There is no limit to the amount of time a victim may spend in a TIP shelter. Victims are offered education, training, and help with employment.

F. Croatia has a national referral system employing 'mobile teams' through which the victims are identified and referred for assistance. The GOC has protocols in place for identification and treatment of trafficked victims: 'Protocol on Detection and Care for Victims of trafficking in Persons', 'Instructions for Interviewing Illegal Migrants and Other Persons who are Suspected Victims of Trafficking' and 'Rules and Procedures in Shelters'. In June a cooperation agreement was signed between the Ministry of the Interior, The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and two NGOs in order to clearly define the responsibilities of each signatory in regards to victim assistance. The agreement allows NGOs to provide primary assistance to the victim, places the responsibility of safe return to the country of origin with the Ministry of Interior, and allows the Ministry of Health to be present during interviews of child victims and to provide child victims with a legal guardian. NGOs overall were satisfied with the implementation of the agreement, but initially in some cases they found that the Ministry of Interior had used improper methods to return victims to their country of origin (i.e. returning a victim to the border in a police vehicle). NGOs reported that they voiced this concern with the government and now feel that the problem is being addressed. Special procedures (laws and protocols) are used for minor victims of trafficking. Border police and other police officers are instructed in all protocols. Social workers also have special instructions on how to recognize and treat victims of trafficking. A trained social worker has been appointed in each of Croatia's 21 counties to assist TIP victims.

G. The government identified seven TIP victims during the year. Law enforcement authorities referred all victims to care facilities for assistance per Croatian law. However, only three TIP victims in 2008 chose to use the shelter facilities in addition to two victims from 2007. The children of one TIP victim were also allowed to use the

care facilities. All the victims have been assisted by government-funded assistance programs.

¶H. Croatia has a national referral system, employing "mobile teams", through which victims are identified and referred to assistance. The GOC has protocols in place for the identification and treatment of trafficking victims: 'Protocol on Detection and Care for Victims of Trafficking in Persons', 'Instructions for Interviewing Illegal Migrants and Other Persons Who are Suspected Victims of Trafficking' and 'Rules and Procedures in Shelters'. Special procedures (Laws and Protocols) are used for minor victims of trafficking. Border police and other police officers are instructed in all protocols through a

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standardized curriculum at the police academy. Social workers have special instructions on how to recognize and treat victims of trafficking. In addition, social workers have been appointed in each county to deal specifically with TIP victims who are minors. Consular officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have also received intensive TIP training.

¶I. The rights of the victims were generally respected. Trafficking victims were neither detained nor jailed. Victims in Croatia are not prosecuted for violations of other laws such as those governing immigration or prostitution. The GOC did not deport or punish victims of trafficking. While the law criminalizes international prostitution and unauthorized (illegal) border crossings, it exempts trafficking victims from prosecution. Similarly, the law allows authorities to charge foreign prostitutes with a misdemeanor and initiate deportation proceedings if they do not fulfill legal requirements for their stay in Croatia, but exempts trafficking victims from deportation and detention.

¶J. The government encourages victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking but does not pressure them if they do not wish to participate. All seven victims in 2008 assisted in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Victims may file both civil and criminal suits and seek legal action against traffickers. Victims have the right to legal assistance. In April parliament passed a law on Free Legal Aid which came into effect in February of 2009. In addition to already existing laws guaranteeing legal assistance to trafficking victims the law further protects that right. According to the law all under-privileged citizens will be able to seek assistance from attorneys, NGOS and 'legal clinics' free of charge. Victims also have the right to press charges themselves and may continue to prosecute a case that has been dropped by the State Prosecutor. No one impedes victim access to legal redress. Victims who are material witnesses in a court case against a former employer are permitted to obtain other employment or leave the country pending trial proceedings. There are means by which a victim can obtain restitution.

¶K. Please see section 3 part F, for a list of training provided to government officials, embassies and consulates for victim identification and assistance. In 2008 no trafficking victims were assisted by Croatian embassies or consulates abroad because no Croatian trafficking victims were found outside of Croatia. All victims found in 2008 were found domestically.

¶L. The government provides assistance, such as medical aid, shelter, or financial help to its nationals who are repatriated as victims of trafficking. In 2008 there were no cases of Croatian nationals repatriated as victims of trafficking.

¶M. Assistance to victims of trafficking is being offered in cooperation with Croatian Government officials by the following organizations: Red Cross, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Integrity and Prosperity (OIP), Rosa, Korak, and Women's Association of Vukovar. NGOs reported excellent cooperation with the Government Office for Human Rights, Ministry of Interior and local police officers. One NGO (Organization for Integrity and Prosperity (OIP) runs a shelter for victims that is funded by the GOC and IOM. Three NGOs run the SOS helpline for victims (OIP, ROSA, Women's Association of Vukovar), and two NGOs (Korak and Rosa) provide for victim's assistance, offering alternative accommodation. The Croatian Red Cross operates temporary

reception centers for TIP victims and a shelter for adult victims of TIP.

15. PREVENTION

1A. In 2008 there have been a number of high profile government-run anti-trafficking information and educational campaigns. In preparation for June's Euro Cup soccer championship the GOC produced and aired a nation wide television campaign alerting the Croatian public that individuals they see in prostitution and child labor may be victims of trafficking. The campaign's slogan was "Open your eyes, you can help, and possibly save a human life," and was aimed to educate potential clients of these victims. The advertising campaign featured one of Croatia's most revered and famous sports stars. The campaign was aired throughout the day but was also shown after the nightly state news program, the most watched television program in Croatia.

As in previous years, the GOC continued to air two high quality TIP TV spots airing on both national and local TV stations around the country. Ads have been placed on trams and at train stations, and

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billboards that advertise the government sponsored help line have been placed around the country.

The Government's Human Rights Office and related NGOs organized an information fair held in the heart of Zagreb on Saturday, October 18, to mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day. The event aimed to raise public awareness about the threat of TIP. In addition to information booths and informative leaflets there were also music and dance performances.

Recognizing the need for more education for workers in the tourist industry on the issue of trafficking, the Ministry of Tourism and the Office for Human Rights organized an educational seminar for 40 employees in the tourism sector on how to recognize victims of trafficking.

The government has also been particularly engaged in educating youth about the threat of TIP. The Government Office for Human Rights has spoken to roughly 500 students in 2008 on TIP prevention. The government also identified youth in orphanages as a high risk group for trafficking and educated 40 children and youth in orphanages on TIP.

1B. Instructions for interviewing illegal migrants and other persons who are suspected victims of trafficking are routinely used by border and immigration police and other police officers to screen potential trafficking victims along the borders. Croatian Consular Officers have received training for TIP screening as part of their visa issuance procedures. In addition, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ministry of Interior, and the British Government have produced and distributed a user friendly brochure and checklist specifically designed for Border Police to recognize the different indicators of smuggling vs. trafficking in persons. All border police in the country have been provided with a copy of this checklist.

1C. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also responsible for social affairs and human rights, acts as the chairperson of the National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking. The head of the Government Office of Human Rights is the point of contact that coordinates all GOC activities and develops an annual operational plan. GOC's National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking consists of members from relevant ministries and representatives from NGOS. The committee meets periodically for information sharing and strategy development. In addition, the National Committee has an operational team that meets monthly to assess the current status of TIP in Croatia. The Government of Croatia has a public corruption task force and a National Program for Suppression of Corruption.

1D. The head of the office of Human Rights is the point of contact that coordinates all GOC activities and develops an annual TIP operational plan. The National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking is responsible for drafting the National Action Plan for

Combating TIP. The national plan for 2009-2011 was developed during the reporting period and all agencies on the National Committee had input. As NGOs are members of the National Committee they were consulted during the creation of the plan. The 2009-2011 plan covers all areas as previous national plans but it has a special focus on the return and repatriation of TIP victims.

¶E. The government's televised ad campaign for the 2008 Euro Cup soccer championship was aimed at possible consumers of services offered in part by commercial sex workers.

¶F. Croatia does not have a significant number of nationals traveling abroad as child sex tourists nor has it reported any prosecutions of Croatian nationals for participation in international child sex tourism during 2008. Post does not believe the participation of Croatian nationals in international child sex tourism is a problem to date. However, Croatian laws on pedophilia and child sexual abuse do have extraterritorial coverage and a Croatian national could be prosecuted for sexual abuse of a minor while abroad should the case arise.

¶G. To date there have been no occurrences of international peacekeepers from Croatia engaged in, or facilitating trafficking or exploiting victims of such trafficking. During the year the government provided education on TIP for approximately 60 soldiers due to be deployed to Afghanistan.

¶6. (SBU) Points of Contact

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¶A. Embassy points of contact are Political Officer J. Nicole Callahan Phone: 385-1-661-2341 and Political Assistant Metka Jelenc Phone: 385-1-661-2353. In preparing the report, 03 PolOff spent approximately 40 hours and Pol Assistant spent approximately 40 hours.

Bradtke